(Period Average)

	SDR/ RE	PD.STG./ RE	DOL./ RE	D.M./ RE	YEN/ RE
Nov. 1989	21.61	26.62	16.92	9.25	0.12
Dec. 1989	22.06	27.05	16.95	9.75	0.12
Jan. 1990	22.41	27.99	16.99	10.04	0.12
Feb. 1990	22.56	28.83	17.01	10.15	0.12
Mar. 1990	22.28	27.83	17.12	10.04	0.11

(b) The exchange rate of the rupee is fixed with reference to the value of a basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, upward or downward movements of the value of the rupee, which depends on the flactuations in the value of these currencies, is a normal phenomenon.

Incident of Robberies and Lootings of Banks

988. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents of bank robberies and lootings were reported in the Capital and other parts of the country in recent months;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof during the last four months and the amount of money involved in each case; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to effectively prevent such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that 34 incidents of bank robberies/ dacoities including one in the Union Territory of Delhi, involving a total amount of Rs. 159.30 lakhs were reported in the country, during the period from 1-1-90 to 22-4-90.

(c) Bank robberies/dacoities, to a considerable extent, depend on the general security environment in the locality. Security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/ instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, banks have classified their branches, and posted armed guards, installed anti-burglary, robbery devices, etc. wherever necessary.

Clearance of Maddileru Project

989. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sent the project report of Maddileru Project in Anantapur district to Central Water Commission for clearance;

(b) whether the clearance has since been given;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RE-

SOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) After examination, the project was returned to the State Government in December, 1989 because it was seen that, among others, hydrological and geological studies for reservoir were not fully carried out, as required.

Clearance of IInd Phase of SriRama Sagar Project

990. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received the project report of IInd phase of Srirama Sagar Project which will involve an expenditure of Rs. 450 crores from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the project has been cleared;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) After examination, it was observed that water as proposed was not available for meeting the requirements of this project. The project has, therefore, been returned to the State Government in May, 1989.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits from a Maruti car in Sirsa, Haryana

991. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold biscuits weighing around 47 Kgs. and valued at around Rs. 1.6 crore were recently seized from a Maruti car at Dabwali Mandi, near Sirsa (Haryana) by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence; and

(b) whether this seizure has revealed any gang of gold smugglers; if so, what are the details thereof and its *modus-operandi*?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 5th April, 1990, the Officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted a Maruti car at Sirsa (Haryana). Rummaging of the car resulted in the recovery of 400 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing about 47 Kgs valued at Rs. 1.6 Crores approximately, from the cavities in he doors of the car. The gold and Maruti car were seized. The two occupants of the car namely, Sukhdav Singh alias Fauji and Nirmal Singh alias Nimma who were members of a gang engaged in smuggling were arrested and thereafter detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 on 18th April, 1990.

Steps to check smuggling activities

992. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of contraband goods such as gold, silver, drugs, electronic items; etc. have been consistently on the rise;

(b) if so, what is the comparative percentage of rise in the smuggling of contraband goods during 1988, 1989 and 1990 till date;

(c) which of the identified routes have been found to be continuous weak spots and what fresh steps have been taken to strengthen these weak spots;

(d) what is the role of the State Governments to prevent smuggling activities; and